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**MAY 20 2009**

**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

Applicant: Schwaab  
Appl. No.: 10/568,401  
International Filing Date: February 13, 2006  
Title: REFLECTIVE LAYER  
Attorney Docket No.: 06-131  
Pub. No.: 2008/0231177 A1  
Pub. Date: September 25, 2008

This is a decision on the request for a corrected patent application publication under 37 CFR 1.221(b), received on November 24, 2008, for the above-identified application.

The request is DISMISSED.

Applicant requests that the application be republished because the patent application publication contains a material error on the front page of the publication wherein the foreign priority claim data to the German application includes a typographical error.

37 CFR 1.221 (b) is applicable "only when the Office makes a material mistake which is apparent from Office records.... Any request for a corrected publication or revised patent application publication other than provided as provided in paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within two months from the date of the patent application publication. This period is not extendable." A material mistake must affect the public's ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication, or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent.<sup>1</sup>

The error in the foreign priority claim to the German Application on the front page of the publication is an Office mistake, but it is not a material mistake as required by 37 CFR 1.221(b). The error in the foreign priority claim is not a material mistake because it does not affect the public's ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent. The specification and claims were accurately published, thus one can read and understand the content

<sup>1</sup>Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 FR 57023, 57038 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239, Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 63, 75 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule).

of the application. The error also does not affect the use of the patent application publication as a prior art reference, because the foreign priority date is not useable as a reference date.

It would greatly benefit the Office if **applicant did not provide copies of papers**, which were previously submitted or **a complete copy of the pre-grant publication**, as it unnecessarily increases the cost to the Office. See 37 CFR 1.4(b). A request for corrected publication need only point out what was printed incorrectly in the application, where the error occurs in the publication and where the correct text or drawing is found in the application papers. Marked up relevant copies of the applications papers and the pre-grant publication may facilitate processing of the request, where it is not readily apparent where the error occurs. If it is not clear why the error is a material error, further explanation may be warranted.

The applicant is advised that a "request for republication of an application previously published" may be filed under 37 CFR 1.221(a). Such a request for republication "must include a copy of the application compliance with the Office's electronic filing system requirements and be accompanied by the publication fee set forth in § 1.18(d) and the processing fee set forth in § 1.17(i)." If the request for republication does not comply with the electronic filing system requirements, the republication will not take place and the publication fee set forth in § 1.18(d) will be refunded. The processing fee will be retained.

A guide for filing a request for a Pre-Grant Publication, such as a request for republication may be found on the link below:

<http://www.uspto.gov/eac/portal/tutorials.htm>

Any request for republication under 37 CFR 1.221(a), must be submitted via the EFS system, as a "Pre-Grant Publication" and questions or request for reconsideration of the decision, should be addressed as follows:

By mail to: Mail Stop PGPUB  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

Inquiries relating to this matter may be directed to Mark Polutta at (571) 272-7709.



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